From: Simmons, Denise
To: aberlija@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Cambridge, Boycotting HP is Anti-Semitism!
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 12:07:30 PM

Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of concern in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that this will only appear on the City Council's April 23 agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it. We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online this Thursday evening around 5:30 pm. I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.

There have been numerous op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet even have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to discuss this amongst ourselves unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting. At this point, I am not yet certain if such a resolution will be introduced or not.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: aberlija@gmail.com <aberlija@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 7:34 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Cambridge, Boycotting HP is Anti-Semitism!

Dear Council Members,
"I have long supported a two-state solution and a democratic and secure state for the Jewish people, with a democratic and viable Palestinian state side-by-side in peace and dignity. I don't believe boycotting, divesting and sanctioning Israel helps us achieve that goal."
-Keith Ellison DNC Deputy Chair

I respectfully and strongly oppose the lack of transparency in this City Council Vote. As someone who is concerned about Cambridge, this resolution will have immense implications beyond Hewlett-Packard and, if adopted, would tarnish the reputation of Cambridge greatly. The Cambridge City Council should not abdicate its responsibilities to an interest group whose purpose is to demonize Israel. Any resolution of this kind deserves a full and just public hearing, including inviting experts and interested parties to weigh in openly before action is taken.

The BDS movement is detrimental to achieving peace. Extreme and deceptive claims, that belie the hard reality on the ground, wane the shared goal of establishing a Palestinian state. There are many good willed people who are working to bridge the divide between Israelis and Palestinians.

Boycotts, like the one under consideration, undermine these peacemakers, fuel polarization, and strengthen the hands of those who reject co-existence.

Sincerely,